

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00804 050844Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /017 W
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R 050810Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2836
USDOC
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 804

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, BTRA, SY
SUBJ: RAILROAD EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY MISSION

REF: A. CAIRO 2280 (NOTAL)
B. DAMASCUS 420

1. WE HAVE NOTED FROM REF A THAT MISSION MEMBER D. JOSEPH CORR DROPPED OUT OF MISSION MARCH 1, BUT MAY BE ABLE TO REJOIN MISSION IN DAMASCUS MARCH 7. PLEASE ENCOURAGE CORR TO INFORM US OF ETA BY OPENING BUSINESS MARCH 6 SO WE MAY CANCEL HIS HOTEL RESERVATION FOR MARCH 6 IF THAT NECESSARY; OTHERWISE, MISSION WILL BE CHARGED.

2. BASED ON PROGRAM DEVELOPED DURING ADVANCEMAN BECK'S VISIT HERE AND SUBSEQUENT EMBASSY DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT DEPUTY MINISTER BARZAGHEL, PRIOR TO RECEIPT REF A, IT VERY DOUBTFUL PROGRAM CAN BE REARRANGED TO HAVE MISSION MEET TRANSPORT MINISTER ZEIN OTHER THAN ON MONDAY, MARCH 10 IN DAMASCUS FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH SYRIAN RAILWAY OFFICIALS IN ALEPPO MARCH 9. WITH MARCH 7 A NONWORKING DAY AND MARCH 8 A SYRIAN NATIONAL HOLIDAY AS NOTED PARA 3, REF B, CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE MAINTAINING ORIGINAL SCHEDULE.

3. MISSION CONTROL OFFICER WRIGHT LOOKS FORWARD TO MEETING MISSION AT DAMASCUS AIRPORT THURSDAY EVENING.

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 00804 050844Z

MURPHY

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